20010215.ba v03_n102.bam.20010215

>From ???@??? Thu Feb 15 00:30:47 2001 -0600
Date: Thu, 15 Feb 2001 00:28:35 CST
From: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: BOATANCHORS digest 3102
Message-Id: <20010215073544.A0EB74B86@devel43.theporch.com>

BOATANCHORS Digest 3102

Topics covered in this issue include:

1) re: death by ac mains
by Richard Loken <richardlo@devax.admin.athabascau.ca>
2) re: death by ac mains
by Avery Comarow <acomarow@usnews.com>
3) what do you know about loop sticks?
by Richard Loken <richardlo@devax.admin.athabascau.ca>
4) house wiring hints
by "Shriver, John" <john.shriver@intel.com>
5) re: death by ac mains
by Avery Comarow <acomarow@usnews.com>
6) Re: house wiring hints
by jackiv@juno.com
7) Re: {Collins} Re: Deadly Fused Line Cord Plugs
by "Larry Bearse" <lbearse@mail1.nai.net>
8) Re: house wiring hints
by "Roberta J. Barmore" <rbarmore@email.msn.com>
9) Re: house wiring hints --> Danger!
by "John Dilks, K2TQN" <oldradio@worldnet.att.net>
10) Re: house wiring hints
by Arden Allen <gumbear@pacbell.net>
11) Re: KT-200 info needed
by "Hue Miller" <kargokult@proaxis.com>
12) Re: what do you know about loop sticks?
by "Hue Miller" <kargokult@proaxis.com>

Date: Wed, 14 Feb 2001 13:26:42 -0700 (MST)
From: Richard Loken <richardlo@devax.admin.athabascau.ca>
Subject: re: death by ac mains
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Cc: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Message-id:
<Pine.PMDF.3.95.1010214131746.541122782V-100000@devax.admin.athabascau.ca>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

On Wed, 14 Feb 2001, Roberta J. Barmore wrote:

> Really old mains wire is all black--the neutral side will have been chalked (!) or daubed with white paint. If you're in there anyway, a bit of unshrunk white heat-shrink or white "spaghetti" on the neutral side will help out the next person (or on your next visit to the Inner Workings), as the old paint, etc. tends to flake off easily. If the insulation is really crumbly, you may end up sleeving the wires all the way back to the clamps at the entry *points,* which are one-per-*wire* in tube-and-knob and should be (were originally supposed to have been) insulated/padded with stuff that seems to hold up better than what's on the wire. --This is a *lousy* non-fix, which one uses only at their own risk: the insulation is *just* as cumbling on the other side of the clamp, and both wires are often run pretty free back to the closest knob. Don't take chances!

In my 50 year old abode they used closed in light fixtures where the heat went up and destroyed the insulation on the "Non Matelic Dry Cable" (here after known as NMD) so I wound up pulling the box out of the ceiling and and for the first lamp I was able to reroute the cables so I could chop off the six inches of destroyed cable and rewire it. I could not do that with the second cable so I sawed a hole in the attic floor and installed a box and ran a piece of cable to the light fixture from my new box and its excessive number of shortened and reinstalled wiring cables. House wiring is a horror, even when it was done right.

Then there was the notorious barn cable that the code required up here but the moisture and the ammonia and what have you destroyed the cable and burned the barn down. So now that cable is illegal.

Eee. Give me the willies.
---
Richard Loken VE6BSV, Systems Programmer - VMS
Athabasca University
Athabasca, Alberta Canada
** richardlo@admin.athabascau.ca **

Message-Id: <4.2.2.20010214153122.00a97bd0@ntpop.usnews.com>
Date: Wed, 14 Feb 2001 15:43:51 -0500
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
From: Avery Comarow <acomarow@usnews.com>
Subject: re: death by ac mains
Cc: boatanchors@theporch.com
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

In the 14 years we've lived in our house, I've probably replaced 20 or 25 outlets and switches. The house was built new in 1984 and spray-painted inside--with nothing protecting the electrical hardware that was already installed, so paint got on the screws and under the screw heads. We've mostly been lucky, because the worst that's usually happened is that an outlet or switch starts working intermittently and I put in a new one. Once, however, an outlet in an almost inaccessible place beneath the stove (don't ask why one was put there) heated up and started to melt because of the poor contact between the screw and the wire. I smelled it before a fire broke out. This was a custom home, by the way, not a development house, and the builder has a good reputation. Ha. Not with us.

73, Avery W3AVE

At 03:37 PM 2/14/2001 -0500, you wrote:
>On Wed, 14 Feb 2001, Roberta J. Barmore wrote:
>
> >   Really old mains wire is all black--the neutral side will have been
> > chalked (!) or daubed with white paint. If you're in there anyway, a
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> > unshrunk white heat-shrink or white "spaghetti" on the neutral side will
> > help out the next person (or on your next visit to the Inner Workings), as
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> > crumbly, you may end up sleeving the wires all the way back to the
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> > the entry *points,* which are one-per-*wire* in tube-and-knob and should be
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> > seems to hold up better than what's on the wire. --This is a *lousy*
> > non-fix, which one uses only at their own risk: the insulation is *just* as
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> pretty
> > free back to the closest knob. Don't take chances!
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>the second cable so I sawed a hole in the attic floor and installed a box
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>excessive number of shortened and reinstalled wiring cables. House wiring
>is a horror, even when it was done right.
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>Then there was the notorious barn cable that the code required up here but
>the moisture and the ammonia and what have you destroyed the cable and burned
>the barn down. So now that cable is illegal.
>
>Eee. Give me the willies.
>---

> Richard Loken VE6BSV, Systems Programmer - VMS
> Athabasca University
> Athabasca, Alberta Canada
> ** richardlo@admin.athabascau.ca **

Date: Wed, 14 Feb 2001 13:43:28 -0700 (MST)
From: Richard Loken <richardlo@devax.admin.athabascau.ca>
Subject: what do you know about loop sticks?
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Message-id:
 <Pine.PMDF.3.95.1010214133100.541122782X-100000@devax.admin.athabascau.ca>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

I am fixing the 30 year old Heath GR-54 that hardly worked at all when I started but a fist full resistors and capacitors in the IF, detector, AGC, and audio stages have raised its performance to pretty poor.

In my opinion the signal sounds constricted and distorted but nothing like it was. The short wave sensitivity is passable but the AM band sensitivity without an antenna stinks - with the antenna it is acceptable. I have a 20 year old beat up solid state clock radio that out performs the GR-54 hands down if only the loop stick is being used. Why is the AM band so bad?

How does a loop stick work? Especially when there is a provision to use an outdoor antenna. Are there polarity issues? Are all loopsticks created equal? Can you test them?

The problem with a Heathkit is that I cannot be certain that it has ever worked right.

I thought I knew what I was doing but I was wrong.

Richard Loken VE6BSV, Systems Programmer - VMS
Athabasca University
Athabasca, Alberta Canada
** richardlo@admin.athabascau.ca **

Message-ID: <D1892B7198A4D411BB7500A0C9692EC6B359AA@hdsmsx34.hd.intel.com>
From: "Shriver, John" <john.shriver@intel.com>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: house wiring hints
Date: Wed, 14 Feb 2001 12:45:53 -0800
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
     charset="iso-8859-1"

I am lucky to have a old house (1926) which was done with very progressive wiring for it's day, BX. This stuff has a decent ground in the spiral steel shield. Probably wouldn't be code to use it as a ground today in a new installation, but it sure was still code in the 1960's when grounded outlets started to be widely used.

I have been improving the grounding outlet box by outlet box. The original outlets were 10A non-polarized simplex outlets, with T slots. These used the same round-hole cover plates as the old Edison-base outlets. (Well, some of those at least had a flap door on the cover plate!) I still have one of those simplex outlets, and I'm leaving it as a souvenier. Someone replaced all the rest of the outlets, probably 10 years ago, with duplex grounded outlets. They used the blasted push-in wiring on the back of the outlets, which is a dangerous abomination in my book. The series resistance of that is obvious, flickering when you draw serious current (vacuum, photocopier). I'm replacing them all with "specification grade" duplex outlets, wiring to the screws on the side. I am also adding a ground pigtail to every outlet box (readily available) to one of the handy screwholes in the back of the outlet box, and then to the green screw on the duplex outlet. This way you are not relying on the mounting screws for ground. I also make sure that the clamping screws on the clamps holding the BX are VERY tight, to eliminate resistance there.

By the way, you may run into outlet boxes where a duplex grounded outlet does not fit. There was one really economical small size into which duplex grounded outlets are obviously designed not to fit. You can replace the box, or do what I did in my last house, which was go back to 15A simplex grounded outlets. (Normally sold as "refrigerator outlets".)

The one gotcha with this first generation BX is that the wires are insulated with rubber, with cotton woven over it. If you don't get it hot, it lasts a long time. If you replace the original light fixtures with modern ones desgined for 95 degree centigrade rated wiring, you will destroy the insulation in no time. Things like those wedding cake kitchen fixtures with the 1" deep flat pan and a glass cover are horrible wire-bakers. They put in an inch of insulation, but that will NOT protect old rubber wire from 118 watts of heat. (Assuming one watt of each 60 watt bulb goes out as light.)

The original 1920's fixtures were either bare-bulb pans, hanging fixtures on chains, or if they were enclosed, had large (5" deep) bases that kept the heat away from the wiring. If someone modernized the light fixtures along the way (EXTREMELY likely), they have probably roasted your wiring, and your light fixtures are now firetraps. In my last house, I found some nasty cases of this, the insulation was crumbs. Amazingly, my current house mostly had the original fixtures, and all the wire I have ever dealt with has been as good as new. But this is an unusual exception, I'm sure!

(Heck, my house still had most of the push-button light switches, and I've put more old ones back in.)

If you do have rubber wire, seek old-style fixtures, ideally UL approved for 65 degree centigrade wiring. Rejuventation Lamp and Fixture is one source, expensive, but good value for the hand craftsmanship you get.

Message-Id: <4.2.2.20010214155118.00ac3e70@ntpop.usnews.com>
Date: Wed, 14 Feb 2001 15:57:54 -0500
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
From: Avery Comarow <acomarow@usnews.com>
Subject: re: death by ac mains
Cc: boatanchors@theporch.com
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

And you know what's *really* depressing? I could be wrong, but I have a very strong feeling that fewer and fewer kids are growing up with even rudimentary home-repair skills. Nor do they care that this is so. I'd swear my son can barely change a light bulb, and I'm not even sure he can do that. When I was a boy I worked side by side with my father on all kinds of projects (other than those involving electricity, which he refused to have anything to do with). I loved the satisfaction of a good job well done, and the process of learning new skills, and just plain getting dirty and sweaty. My son and his friends are athletes, so there's no shortage of sweat, but the idea of picking up a hammer or screwdriver leaves them stone cold.

I hope they all get jobs that pay a fortune so they can pay a handyman $100 to change a switch.

End of rant. Not an appropriate list topic. I apologize.

73, Avery W3AVE

At 03:58 PM 2/14/2001 -0500, you wrote:
>As I get older I marvel that every house in North America doesn't burn to the
>ground. Most people could not replace an outlet without killing themselve
>much less discover that it needs to be replaced but they go through life,
>have children, retire, die of old age without mishap.
>
>God must indeed watch over fools and little children.
>---
>   Richard Loken VE6BSV, Systems Programmer - VMS
>   Athabasca University
>   Athabasca, Alberta Canada
>   ** richardlo@admin.athabascau.ca **

To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Cc: boatanchors@theporch.com
Date: Wed, 14 Feb 2001 15:43:26 +0100
Subject: Re: house wiring hints
Message-ID: <20010214.154328.-345021.9.jackiv@juno.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
From: jackiv@juno.com

John, I must say to use caution using *old* bx as a ground. Unless bx has a ground wire in the cable to touch all of the convolutions, it is a *long* reactance. There have been many cases where a short to the jacket ocurred and because of the corrosion in the armor, turn to turn, the stuff would fet hot enough to burn wood and start a fire. This happened without blowing a 15 amp fuse.

Because of that. theFire Marshalls Offic, State of Nebraska banned *all* bx for farm, home or industrial uses. *about 1950* This was before the industry started to incorporate the ground wire *bare* in the cable.

(my father was the State Fire Marshal of Nebraska at that time)
today, my choice is thinwall conduit first and *romex* a very poor second. FWIW.

73   Jack   K0EWU <jackiv@juno.com>

On Wed, 14 Feb 2001 12:45:53 -0800 "Shriver, John" <john.shriver@intel.com> writes:

> I am lucky to have a old house (1926) which was done with very progressive wiring for it's day, BX. This stuff has a decent ground in the spiral steel shield. Probably wouldn't be code to use it as a ground today in a new installation, but it sure was still code in the 1960's when grounded outlets started to be widely used.
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```
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>
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> fixtures on
> chains, or if they were enclosed, had large (5" deep) bases that
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> approved for
> 65 degree centigrade wiring.  Rejuventation Lamp and Fixture is one
> source,
> expensive, but good value for the hand craftsmanship you get.
>
>

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Message-ID: <002a01c096d8$a6418cf0$e62296d1@thecave>
From: "Larry Bearse" <lbearse@mail1.nai.net>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Re: {Collins} Re: Deadly Fused Line Cord Plugs
Date: Wed, 14 Feb 2001 17:51:14 -0500
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
     charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit


----- Original Message -----
From: Avery Comarow <acomarow@usnews.com>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Cc: <boatanchors@theporch.com>; <COLLINS@LISTSERV.TEMPE.GOV>;
<COLLINS@LISTSERVE.COM>; <roy.morgan@nist.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2001 10:27 AM
```

Subject: RE: {Collins} Re: Deadly Fused Line Cord Plugs

> Hi, Ed--
>
> Good explanation for the bypass caps (and anything else that I might be tempted to put on the line side of a fuse). The question I had regarding the fuse holder, though, wasn't whether to use a fused-cord plug. It was Roy's point about which lug of a fuseholder to use for the hot AC lead. Roy
> stiputated that the black wire should go to the rearmost connector of the holder, the lug at the back end of the pillar, and not to the side lug of the holder. My question was why that would make a difference.
>
> 73, Avery W3AVE

I believe the reason is that if the fuse blows you change it, and when you change it you pull of the little fuse cap and there is an exposed contact for you to touch with a finger or maybe a hand holding a pair of pliers or whatever to get out the dead fuse. If the hot lead is connected to the rear connection, this won't happen. But its always a good idea to not change a fuse with the power applied to the unit anyway.

73........Larry WA1LGQ

Message-ID: <002301c096df$d37c8380$c05e0387@satellite>
From: "Roberta J. Barmore" <rbarmore@email.msn.com>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Cc: <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Re: house wiring hints
Date: Wed, 14 Feb 2001 18:42:41 -0500

Hi, Gang!

I am frequently pleased by what interesting things are caught on the least-prepossessing of bait--this thread being a good example!
...I never realized they'd redone the standards for electric lighting to allow for higher operating temps, but it explains quite a lot! Some of the older overhead lighting fixtures had built-in plug and socket (ish) assemblies, which always worried me--the screws holding the two halves can eventually work loose and then there's annoying blue flashes and light dimming any time the breeze catches the lamp.... Had that in an apartment that had 20-foot high ceilings--wasn't so much you had to be an electrical wiz to fix them, as an *aerialist!*

As far as I am aware, old-fashioned "BX" type armored mains cable has been a no-no (for new installation) in most of the US for many years now. However, there are newer sorts of armored, flexible housewire, with nifty patent widgets to hold it at the ends and take care of all the sharp edges & such, if a person wants to use it. There are times when it's a darn good idea, plain Romex is kind of vulnerable in basements or garages and such where you haven't got finished walls to hide it in!

Thinwall conduit has been mentioned--it's fun stuff if you've the time and the knack, a bit of a bother if you haven't. (*I* like it, up to 3/4" at least--but I usually waste a half-stick or so every time, re-learning how to use the bending thingie and figure offsets and such. 1" is hard for me to bend, and any bigger has me hiring electricans or working out how to do the job with only store-bought bends!). It is usually considered somewhat difficult to thread the stuff down finished walls..... ;)

Neither thinwall nor armorflex will *always* get you out of trouble when making holes in walls, but they're pretty well proof against *human-powered* drilling devices. Romex is pretty much not. Some places, the code calls for little metal plates where wiring (and water pipes!) pass through wooden studs, a form of "idiotproofing" that's hard to complain about.

Richard Loken mentioned the amazing manner in which Home Electrical Projects *do* grow by leaps and bounds, especially in an older home--this is something to *always* bear in mind any time you start one. (Oh, she said, not that it ever happened to *me.* ...More than five or six times, that is).

...And for those brave souls who work small house wiring projects "hot," I'll simply mention the Extremely Qualified Certified Electricians we hire for the big stuff kill the juice for 120V work just as routinely as they do for the high-current 480V stuff; and when they can't, they use purpose-made insulated tools. Word to the wise? One ol' insulated screwdriver to use in the breaker box--plus some black tape to cover the end of that cable as you route it in--is pretty cheap. And other than that, the best wires are the ones that can't bite you!

The makers swear those shove-the-wire-in grabber connections work okay. I don't trust 'em myself. It's everybody's own dime, I think UL and CSA did say they'd do. But whatever the connection methodology, don't buy "bargain" outlets for anything but the least demanding applications--and maybe not even those. (Not only do they *not* make those like they used to, they never did!)

Electricans will sometimes make up outlets and switches with flying or pigtail leads ahead of time, then use good-quality twist-on wire connections when they wire them in. It works well with stranded wire both sides but maybe not so good with the usual solid #12 (or #14, on a 15A breaker) in many homes.

73,

--Bobbi

Message-Id: <4.3.2.7.0.20010214192328.00ad7f00@postoffice.worldnet.att.net>
Date: Wed, 14 Feb 2001 19:32:57 -0500
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
From: "John Dilks, K2TQN" <oldradio@worldnet.att.net>
Subject: Re: house wiring hints --> Danger!
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

Danger - Danger - Danger !!!!!

BX shield when one end is connected to ground and AC voltage is applied to the shield at some distance from the grounded end (as in a short circuit), it becomes a long heating element. (A heating element is not a direct short, but is a resistive load.) If the fuse does not blow, the heating element becomes hotter and hotter and can cause a major fire.

My father told me of such an instance where an entire family lost their lives due to just such a fire in the 1950's.

Please - Please - replace the BX wiring.

BTW = modern BX has a bare ground wire inside the BX shield, and most of it also has the green wire included to be used as ground.

73' John. K2TQN

At 12:45 PM 2/14/2001 -0800, Shriver, John wrote:

>I am lucky to have a old house (1926) which was done with very progressive wiring for it's day, BX. This stuff has a decent ground in the spiral steel shield. Probably wouldn't be code to use it as a ground today in a new installation, but it sure was still code in the 1960's when grounded outlets started to be widely used.

Date: Wed, 14 Feb 2001 18:44:00 -0800
From: Arden Allen <gumbear@pacbell.net>
Subject: Re: house wiring hints
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Cc: boatanchors@theporch.com
Message-id: <0G8S0093W227C0@mta6.snfc21.pbi.net>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Hi Bobbi;

>>>>   The makers swear those shove-the-wire-in grabber connections work okay.
I don't trust 'em myself. It's everybody's own dime, I think UL and CSA did
say they'd do. But whatever the connection methodology, don't buy "bargain"
outlets for anything but the least demanding applications--and maybe not
even those. (Not only do they *not* make those like they used to, they
never did!) .....

You shouldn't trust 'em for good reason. My house was built (if that's what you call it) about '75. All solid copper (thank God) but all push-in outlets. Beings it was (and still is) a fixer-upper one of the first things I wanted to do was replace all of the outlets with high quality screw terminal units. But before I did that I measured the voltage drop at the end of a long string of outlets. The load was an electric heater (about 11 amps). I went through and replaced all of the outlets in the string and gained four (4) volts! By the time I finished the house I counted five (5) outlets that had a least one wire simply slip out of its push-in terminal when pulling the outlet out of the box. It amazes me how UL, CSA and whatever else safety agencies figure these things are safe. I suppose they go by statistics (you know, figures lie and liars figure, those kind). You just got to hope you are in the safe population. It's all for the love of $$$$$$$$$......

Arden Allen   KB6NAX   Vallejo, CA   gumbear@pacbell.net

Message-ID: <002c01c09705$1267d840$94fd91c6@oemcomputer>
From: "Hue Miller" <kargokult@proaxis.com>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Re: KT-200 info needed
Date: Wed, 14 Feb 2001 20:09:11 -0800
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
     charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

----- Original Message -----
From: Arden Allen <gumbear@pacbell.net>
To: <kargokult@proaxis.com>

Subject: Re: KT-200 info needed

> I'm just now contemplating some of those questions. My HE-10 is a

> disappointment. The coil system does not compensate for the
overload
> susceptability on the BC band and the gain is too weak for the "big
sweep"
> band. Power supply is a big mistake. Too low output from power
> transformer. Puny audio output. The 90 degree dial can be
corrected by
> converting radio into tombstone configuration.

--Gee. While i have resisted buying back my first receiver, which is
easy
when i recall how unhappy i was with the dial system and calibration,
i
don't remember it being all that bad. It's tuff to avoid overload on
BCB,
but i don't recall it being any worse than a number of other
receivers.
(The Lafayette circuit was not that original.) Your AVC is working
right,
and you've replaced bad tubes, and with 6BA6 instead of those dumb
original 6BD6 ? Mine NEVER worked on high band (4), and i could
never figure out the problem. However, that was a problem of my
limited experience, it should have worked somewhat. I found the audio
output plenty for any reasonable room loudness, and the power supply
certainly lasted, without heating, even with my outboard RF devices
drawing power from it.

 My SX-110 shows its
> maturity next to the Laughingyet. What do you expect when the
design
> specification comes from the Handbook

--Well, yeah, but the Hallicrafter probably cost twice as much as the
Lafayette. The KT-200 did offer good value for money, but now if
i could re-do the experience, i'd forego the pride of ownership of
"brand new" and shop for some pre-owned military beast, for good
value for money. In that year however, i didn't even know such
things existed.
Hue Miller

Message-ID: <005401c0971b$02ed6f40$94fd91c6@oemcomputer>
From: "Hue Miller" <kargokult@proaxis.com>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Re: what do you know about loop sticks?
Date: Wed, 14 Feb 2001 22:46:14 -0800
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;

```
     charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
```

I don't know whether the GR-54 uses a loopstick (ferrite bar
antenna) or just a plain coil, shielded or unshielded. In any
case, even with just 3 feet or so of wire, you should hear all
the BCB stations you need. If the ones you can get, show
up the right places on the dial, then the remaining problem
you have, sounds like no resonance, or resonance at the
wrong frequency, in the RF tuned circuit at the antenna
connection. A dipmeter would be handy here, altho a signal
generator and an RF voltmeter or diode probe VM will also
do, to check the resonant frequency. In my opinion, that's
where i would start.
I can never remember if the GR-54 is the bigger of the
Heath GC receivers, the one with the 2-crystal filter at about
1630 kHz, or if it's the smaller toy receiver, similar to Halli
S-120, et al.
If it has an RF stage, you could try bypassing it by connecting
a short wire, or maybe a Radio Shack alligator jumper, to
the grid of the mixer tube. If you get plenty of BC signal here,
which should be about as sensitive as any common home
radio, then the problem definitely is in the RF amp. Anyway,
i would look at the tuned circuit next to the antenna.
Hue Miller

End of BOATANCHORS Digest 3102
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